REMARKS

Applicants amend claims 1, 8, 11, 15 and 19 and cancel claim 22. Accordingly, claims 1-15, 17-19, 21 and 23-24 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim rejections

Claims 1-4, 7 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Robarts et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0278741) in view of Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,428).

Claims 8-15, 17-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Robarts in view of Lee, and further in view of Kikinis (U.S. Patent No. 7,213,256).

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Robarts in view of Lee, as applied to claims 1, 3 and 4 and further in view of Hori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,209,942).

Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Claim 1, recites, *inter alia*, "wherein the search frequency corresponds to a frequency at which the search terms are input from the external input device." In rejecting claim 22 (now cancelled), the Examiner asserts that Robarts discloses this unique feature in page 2, paragraph [0021], lines 1-3. Applicants disagree with the Examiner for at least the following reasons.

Robarts is directed towards operating electronic program guides (EPG) using auto-generated and viewer generated queries to identify programs or other programming information.

In the cited portion of the reference, Robarts discloses that the EPG can further be configured to merge query of individual viewers into a composite query which searches for programs on behalf of all viewers (page 2, paragraph [0021], lines 1-3). However, merging queries of individual views into composite queries does not teach or suggest the claimed search frequency that corresponds to a frequency at which the search terms are input from the external input device.

Furthermore, Lee also does not disclose this feature of claim 1. In particular, Lee discloses that categories are constructed using words that appear in a large proportion of the chosen programs. Lee discloses that the title and descriptions of the returned results are scanned for terms that occur with a degree of frequency and these terms are stored in a keyword list. Therefore, Lee discloses scanning a chosen program for common terms that frequently occur in the description or title. The degree of frequency corresponds to the frequency in which the terms occur in the description of the chosen program. As such, Lee discloses that a term that occurs several times in the description of the chosen program will be stored in the keyword list (column 5, lines 1-27). However, scanning for the occurrence of key common keywords with some degree of frequency does not teach or suggest a frequency at which the search terms are input from the external input device.

Moreover, Lee merely discloses that the keywords in the list could each be ranked based on the frequency in which they appeared in the title or description that can be scanned.

In addition, during the interview of December 5, 2008, the Examiner asserted that the feature of "a server logically connected to a first database configured to store a plurality of search terms inputted from external devices" is disclosed in FIG. 5.

To the contrary, Applicants submit that FIG. 5 shows an example implementation of a viewer computing unit 60 of FIG. 3. However, there is no teaching or suggestion of a plurality of search terms inputted from external devices.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Claims 8, 11, 15 and 19

Applicants herewith amend claims 8, 11, 15 and 19 similar to claim 1. In view of the above, Applicants submit that since claims 8, 11, 15 and 19 recite subject matter analogous to claim 1 and since Kikinis does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1 missing in Robarts and Lee, claims 8, 11, 15 and 19 are patentable for at least the analogous reasons claim 1 is allowable.

With regard to the feature of "wherein the digital signal receiver is an external device" of claim 8 and the feature of "wherein the transmitter is an external device" of claim 11, the Examiner asserts that Kikinis in column 5, lines 19-22 discloses these features. Applicants disagree with the Examiner for at least the following reasons.

In FIG. 4 and column 5, lines 19-22, Kikinis shows a block diagram overview of an EPG system 400. Kikinis discloses that a processor 410 of the EPG system 400 acts under program control by a program stored in the logic memory 440. However, this disclosure does not teach or suggest the digital signal receiver and the transmitted being an external device. In fact, Kikinis does not disclose that logic memory 440 is an external device.

Claims 2-4, 7, 9, 12-14, 17, 18, 21 and 23-24

Applicants submit that claims 2-4, 7, 9, 12-14, 17, 18, 21 and 23-24 depend from one of the independent claims, and therefore these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claims 5 and 6

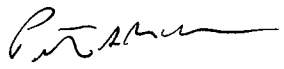
Applicants submit that since claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and since Hori does not cure the deficiency noted above with regard to claim 1, claim 1 is allowable over the cited references.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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